



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

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CHAFEE STATEMENT ON THE BUDGET RECONCILIATION BILL

WASHINGTON, DC – “I joined with my moderate Republican colleagues to oppose this Budget reconciliation measure. The bill would increase the burden currently borne by the state of Rhode Island in providing healthcare services to families. In addition, I have been on the record as a strong opponent to the inclusion of ANWR in this process – and I am not alone in this opposition.

This past March a delegation of prominent Americans visited my Capitol Hill office to deliver a message that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge should remain wild, unspoiled and free of oil drilling. **Susan Eisenhower**, granddaughter of the president who set aside the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (then known as the “Arctic National Wildlife Range”) in 1960, **Theodore Roosevelt IV**, great grandson of the president who established the National Wildlife Refuge system in 1903, and **Larry Rockefeller**, founder of “Americans for Energy Security,” which has worked to focus attention on automobile efficiency and national security, came by to voice their concern about Arctic drilling.

At the time I expressed my strong objection to the inclusion of drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as part of the budget resolutions. Americans are overwhelmingly opposed (72% v. 18% in a bipartisan January 2005 poll) to including drilling in the Arctic Refuge in the budget process.

The issue of oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge is too important to the American public and future generations to be considered in the budget bill in an attempt to circumvent the established process.”